

The BPL proposal represents a huge technological mistake for a number of reasons:

(1) The potential for disruption of other communication services is enormous. The RF

environment in the Washington DC area is already well "polluted" with spurious and badly

controlled signals. There is also a potential for inadvertent "leaking" of confidential

information sent over BPL and therefore there are unassessed security issues.

(2) Reliance upon power lines for communications, as in BPL, provides no reliability in

the event of disruptive weather events. The Washington DC area has had several very

extensive weather 'disasters' in the immediate past where power lines were unavailable

for days, and in some cases weeks. Agencies and services relying on BPL would have

been completely disrupted.

(3) Other technologies are emerging, maturing, and are being deployed that will satisfy

all the purported uses for BPL without these disadvantages. This proposal is merely an

attempt by the power-line based industry to wedge themselves into what they see as a

lucrative market with no real concern for public needs or safety.